

REMARKS

After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 2 and 4-12 are all of the claims currently pending in this application. Claim 3 is cancelled via this Amendment, and claims 9-12 were previously withdrawn.

Applicant hereby adopts the Examiner's suggested amended title of the invention, i.e., PNEUMATIC RADIAL TIRES WITH AT LEAST TWO MONOFILAMENT CORD BELT LAYERS.

The rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite is rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 3. However, the Examiner's concerns are addressed in the language added to claim 1.

The rejection of claim 3 (the features of which are now recited in claim 1) is respectfully traversed.

Bourgois (U.S. Patent No. 5,234,044) and the present invention differ in construction and effect. The belt of the present invention comprises two crossed belt layers and each crossed belt layer comprises a plurality of cord groups. See claim 1. To the contrary, the belt of Bourgois having cord groups is not a crossed belt layer, but is a circumferential belt layer, which is clear from Fig. 8. That is,

when viewing each cord constituting cord groups in the widthwise section of the tire as shown in Fig. 8, the shape in section of the cord is not an oval shape, but is a perfect circle because the cords of the cord group extend in parallel to an equatorial plane of the tire and are cut off in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the cord.

In addition, the effect due to the construction of the invention in claim 1 is to control the progress of the separation at both side edge portions of the (crossed) belt layer as is disclosed in paragraph [0011] on page 3 of the instant specification. By way of contrast, Bourgois is silent with respect to, and would not obtain, the effect of the present invention, precisely because the cords of the cord group extend in parallel to an equatorial plane of the tire.

Finally, Caretta, which the Examiner relies upon as the primary reference, does not at all disclose the construction of amended claim 1, whether taken alone or in combination with Bourgois.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be

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best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, she is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees (except the Issue Fee and/or the Publication Fee) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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